

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /093 W  
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R 201610Z DEC 76  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO 7565  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL BELFAST

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TAGS: PFOR, GBOV, SHUM, WB, GW, UK, UR  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN

REF: USBERLIN 2667 (NOTAL)

1. THREE SIMILAR BUT UNRELATED RECENT EVENTS, TEND TO  
STRENGTHEN OUR IMPRESSION THAT WEST BERLIN ESPECIALLY  
SINCE THE ENTERING INTO FORCE OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT,  
IS EMERGING AS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT CENTER FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THE THREE EVENTS WAS THE  
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN WRITERS (VS) AT  
A PRESS CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 10 OF THE ESTABLISHMENT  
IN BERLIN OF A STANDING "COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF  
FREEDOM AND SOCIALISM". THE COMMITTEE HAS AS ITS PRIME  
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OBJECTIVE SUPPORT FOR GDR CITIZENS, WHO BECAUSE OF THEIR  
EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ARE THREATENED PROFESSIONALLY,  
POLITICALLY, OR PERSONALLY. IMPETUS FOR THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF THE PROTECTION COMMITTEE, WHICH IS DEDICATED TO  
THE PRINCIPLES OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT AND THE UN  
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WAS THE DETENTION BY THE GDR

AUTHORTIES OF THE YOUNG WRITER JURGEN FUCHS AND THREATS MADE AGAINST OTHER ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS IN THE WAKE OF THE BIERMANN EXPULSION. THE VS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE APPEARANCE OF BIERMANN AND THE DISCLOSURE THAT A GROUP OF PROMINENT WEST GERMAN CITIZENS OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE CAUSES INCLUDING FORMER BERLIN GOVERNING MAYOR ALBERTZ, WRITERS HEINRICH BOLL AND HELMUT GOLLWITZER, LAWYER ARTHUR SCHILLY AND ACTRESS ROMY SCHNEIDER, WOULD BE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. IN ADDITION, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMITTEE WAS ACCEPTING CORRESPONDING MEMBERSHIP ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS.

3. WHILE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF THE WRITERS' ASSOCIATION DR. HANNES SCHWENGER, WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY EXACTLY HOW THE PROTECTION COMMITTEE WOULD PURSUE ITS WORK, HE DID SAY THAT THE COMMITTEE'S EFFORT WOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON PUBLICIZING BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS THE PLIGHT OF THOSE IN THE GDR WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS' CASES ARE NOT WELL-KNOWN, AND WHO HAVE SUFFERED SPECIAL HARDSHIP AT THE HANDS OF THE GDR AUTHORITIES. THE MORE PROMINENT CASES OF PERSECUTION IN THE GDR WILL NOT BE IGNORED, SCHWENGER SAID, BUT HE CONCEDED THAT THESE PERSONS ARE AFFORDED A DEGREE OF PUBLIC PROTECTION. BIERMANN RESERVED COMMENT ON THE UTILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE IN WEST BERLIN WHICH HE REFERRED TO AS "THE MOST HATED ISLAND" BUT HE OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR WORSE (THAN SELECTING BERLIN AS THE VENUE OF THE COMMITTEE) FOR HIS FRIENDS IN THE WEST TO HAVE DONE NOTHING ON BEHALF OF THOSE OPPRESSED DAILY BY "THE MONOPOLISTIC BUREAUCRACY" IN THE GDR. (WE NOTE UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT THE STUDENTS ON STRIKE AT WEST BERLIN'S UNIVERSITIES HAVE ALSO DEMANDED GREATER POLITICAL FREEDOM IN THE GDR.)

4. A. THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND WAS THE TNAME OF AN EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT EVENT THAT OCCURRED EARLIER THE SAME WEEK. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, BETTY WILLIAMS, MAIREAD CORRIGAN, AND CIARAN MCKEOWN, CO-FOUNDERS OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT "PEACE PEOPLE", WERE INVITED TO BERLIN TO RECEIVE THE PRESTIGIOUS CARL-VON-OSSIETZKY-MEDAL AWARD BY THE BERLIN CHAPTER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE. AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY MAYOR WOLFGANG LUDER PRAISED THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT AS A "HOPE FOR PEACE" AND AUTHOR GUNTER GRASS IN HIS EULOGY SPEECH, STATED THAT "THE WOMEN FROM THE ONSET WERE NEVER SATISFIED WITH THE ROLE DESIGNATED FOR THEM OF BEING MERE SPEECHLESS MOURNERS STANDING ON THE PERIPERY OF THE WANTON KILLING PERPETRATED BY THEIR MEN".

B. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT OF THE THREE NORTHERN IRISH

PEACE ADVOCATES WAS WELL RECEIVED ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL  
HERE, AND ELICITED FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE, A RASH OF  
PRO-IRA AND HOSTILE PEACE MOVEMENT WALL SMEARINGS  
OCCURRED DURING THE LADIES' VISIT. THESE SMEARINGS  
APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK EITHER OF CHILDISH PRANKSTERS  
OR OF THE RADICAL LEFT, WHOSE MEMBERS FREQUENTLY EXPRESS SYM-  
PATHY FOR THE IRA CAUSE.

5. ON DECEMBER 10, TWO SEPARATE GROUPS ATTEMPTED  
UNSUCCESSFULLY TO DELIVER PETITIONS IN PERSON TO THE SOVIET  
CONSULATE GENERAL PROTESTING THE SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. IN THE MORNING SIX MEMBERS OF  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ENTERED THE CONSULATE BUILDING  
PEACEFULLY AND SOUGHT TO PRESENT A PETITION TO A SOVIET  
CONSULAR OFFICER REQUESTING THE RELEASE OF SERGEI PURTOV  
SENTENCED TO PRISON IN 1972 IN LENINGRAD. THE OFFICIAL  
REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE PETITION WHEREUPON THE GROUP LEFT  
THE BUILDING AND DEPOSITED THEIR WRITTEN DEMAND ON THE  
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STEPS. LATER IN THE DAY AFTER THE CONSULATE HAD CLOSED,  
20 MEMBERS OF THE JUNGE UNION (CDU YOUTH GROUP) ASSEMBLED  
IN FRONT OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND READ FOR THE  
BENEFIT OF THE MEDIA A LETTER CRITICIZING THE SOVIET  
REGIME FOR ITS FAILURE TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS. BOTH  
PROTESTS ACTS OCCURRED WITHOUT INCIDENT AND AS YET THE  
SOVIETS HAVE MADE NO MENTION OF EITHER TO US. DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

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